

image; and

notification process code for acquiring and notifying a state of reception of the images by said reception process code while said reception process code is receiving the images.

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-30 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and 30 are the independent claims.

Applicants again note that no rejection has been applied to Claim 23. Applicants therefore repeat their request for clarification of the status of this claim.

Applicants note the indication that their claim for priority is acknowledged but that the Office has not yet received certified copies of the priority documents. Applicants submitted certified copies of the priority documents with their claim for priority filed September 24, 1999. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Office confirm its receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents filed September 24, 1999.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,621,429 (Yonezawa). Claims 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Yonezawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,621,429 (Yamaashi, et al.). Claims 7, 14, 21, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Yonezawa. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The rejection of independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn because the asserted citation does not teach or suggest all of the features of these claims. For example, in one aspect of the present invention, independent Claim 1 recites features of a communication apparatus including, *inter alia*, notification means for acquiring and notifying a state of reception of the images by the reception means while the reception means is receiving the images. Independent Claim 15 also recites this feature. Further, independent Claims 8 and 22 recite a similar feature in method form while independent Claims 29 and 30 recite a similar feature in storage medium form. Thus, the asserted citation does not anticipate these claims.

Yonezawa teaches grouping a plurality of desired terminals of a plurality of video transmission terminals and selectively outputting image data for the plurality of desired terminals. The Office Action asserts that Yonezawa meets all of the features of the independent claims including, in particular, the aforementioned feature of the independent claims, and Col. 3, line 65 - Col. 4, line 26 are cited in support. Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that the cited portion of Yonezawa does not teach the aforesaid feature of the independent claims.

Applicants understand Yonezawa to teach that information regarding the state of a video camera, i.e., whether the video camera is panned, tilted, or zoomed, is returned to a monitoring terminal. The cited portion of Yonezawa teaches that a video transmission terminal 20 returns resultant data representing the state of a video camera 10 to a monitoring terminal 60. The monitoring terminal, in turn, displays the state of the

associated video camera on a bitmap display 135. Yonezawa, Col. 3, line 65 - Col. 4, line 3. But, as mentioned above, the state of the video camera 10 is information such as “panning/tilting and zooming” of the video camera. Yonezawa, Col. 4, lines 48-49; Col. 6, lines 4-5. Thus, the resultant data returned to the monitoring terminal comprises information such as “panning/tilting and zooming” of the video camera.

In stark contrast to Yonezawa and its “resultant data,” Applicants’ invention, as claimed in independent Claim 1, recites acquiring and notifying a state of reception of the images by reception means while the reception means is receiving the images, and, as claimed in Claim 8, recites acquiring and notifying a state of reception of the images in said receiving step while performing said receiving step. Applicants submit that the recited “a state of reception of the images by reception means” and “a state of reception of the images in said receiving step” are patentably distinct from Yonezawa’s “resultant data” since Yonezawa’s “resultant data” relates to the state of the video camera. Thus, at least for this reason, Yonezawa does not anticipate the present invention as recited in the independent claims.

Regarding Claims 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, and 28, which have been rejected under U.S.C. §103, Yamaashi, et al. relates to a video data display controlling method and video data display processing system and is cited for its teachings of a state of reception that is information relating to a frame rate, changing displayed information in accordance with a frame rate, and not performing notification when a frame rate is high and performing notification when a frame rate is reduced. Applicants submit that Yamaashi, et al. adds nothing to the Yonezawa’s teachings that would remedy the

above-mentioned deficiencies.

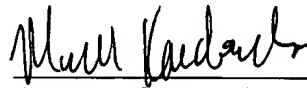
Applicants also submit that the Office has failed to articulate the requisite motivation to combine the asserted citations.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as the base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present Request for Reconsideration After Final Rejection is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the final Office Action dated July 16, 2002.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for Applicants  
Michael E. Kondoudis  
Registration No. 42,758

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200  
MEK/cmv